

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-07 SCI-06

OMB-01 AID-20 HEW-08 PA-04 PRS-01 DRC-01 /115 W

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R 111145Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7211

INFO DEA WASHDC

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 5054

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, AR

SUBJECT: QUARTERLY NARCOTICS REPORT, APRIL-JUNE 1974, ARGENTINA

REF: A. A-4700 DTD 10 JUNE, B. BA 5055

1. HIGHLIGHTS. DURING THE QUARTER THE POLICYMAKERS OF GOVERNMENT OF GENERAL JUAN DOMINGO PERON FINALLY FOCUSED ON THE PROBLEM OF ILLICIT NARCOTICS. ON MAY 28, THE AMBASSADOR AND THE PRESIDENT OF CONATON (THE GOA INTERMINISTERIAL POLICY COMMITTEE) IN THEIR CAPACITIES AS COCHAIRMAN OF THE BINATIONAL COMMITTEE SIGNED THE NECESSARY RESOLUTION WHICH PERMITS NEGOTIATION OF PROAGS AT THE WORKING LEVEL. HOWEVER, THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT PERON ON JULY 1 MOST CERTAINLY MEANS THAT FOR SOME MONTHS, AT LEAST, THE GOA POLICYMAKERS WILL BE FOCUSING ON MATTERS OTHER THAN NARCOTICS. DURING JUNE PROAGS WERE SIGNED WITH BOTH THE FEDERAL POLICE AND THE NATIONAL GENDARMERIA.

2. ABUSE. THERE ARE NO GOA STATISTICS, PER SE, ON DRUG ABUSE. HOWEVER, ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT IT IS ON THE INCREASE. DURING THE QUARTER VOLUNTARY REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE AT THE GOA CENTER FOR SOCIAL REEDUCATION (CENARESO, THE ONLY DRUG ABUSER CENTER IN THE COUNTRY) AVERAGED 30 PER MONTH, AS COMPARED TO 23 DURING THE FIRST QUARTER. HOWEVER, THE CENARESO IS JUST  
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STARTING OPERATIONS, AND THE DATA MAY BE MISLEADINGLY LOW.

OTHER DATA INDICATES A SHARP RISE IN RECENT YEARS. FOR EXAMPLE, WITH AN INTAKE OF 17,000 RECRUITS ANNUALLY, IN 1971 THE ARMY REJECTED 6 FOR USE OF DRUGS; IN 1972 THE NUMBER WAS 60. FAVORITE DRUGS OF ABUSE IN BUENOS AIRES, IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE ARE MARIHUANA, AMPHETAMINES, LSD, COCAINE AND OPIATES. THE USE OF LSD IS DROPPING BUT THERE IS AN INCREASE IN COCAINE AND POLYDRUG USE. IN THE FAR NORTHWEST, ADJACENT TO BOLIVIA, CHEWING OF COCA LEAF IS ENDEMIC AND THE USE OF COCAINE WIDESPREAD. AS NOTED DURING THE PERIOD, THE GOA, AND MOST PARTICULARLY JOSE LOPEZ REGA, MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE BINATIONAL COMMITTEE TOOK A STRONG PERSONAL INTEREST IN BOTH THE ENFORCEMENT AND TREATMENT ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM. HOWEVER, WITH THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT PERON, LOPEZ REGA'S FUTURE IS, AT BEST, AMBIGUOUS. IN ANY EVENT, INTERNAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS WILL COMPLETELY OCCUPY THE GOA POLICY-MAKERS FOR MANY MONTHS, ALTHOUGH WE EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO CONCLUDE FUTURE PROAG TYPE AGREEMENTS AT THE WORKING LEVEL. SUBJECT TO THE CAVEAT IN PARA 9, WE EXPECT CONTINUAL CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN DEA AND THE FEDERAL POLICE.

3. PROCESSING. WE HAVE STRONG INDICATIONS THAT THE COCAINE FACTORIES PRESENTLY LOCATED IN CHILE ARE NOW OPERATING IN NORTHEASTERN ARGENTINA.

4. TRAFFICKING TRENDS. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT HEROIN IS CURRENTLY BEING TRANSSHIPPED THROUGH ARGENTINA, ALTHOUGH INTELLIGENCE INDICATES THAT IT MAY RESUME SHORTLY. A LARGE NUMBER OF MAJOR INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKERS CONTINUE TO BE BASED IN ARGENTINA AND WE HAVE EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THEY CONTINUE TO ORGANIZE AND FINANCE SHIPMENTS OF HEROIN TO THE UNITED STATES. COCAINE CONTINUES TO BE SMUGGLED TO AND THROUGH ARGENTINA FROM BOLIVIA.

5. ENFORCEMENT. THE GOA DID NOT UNDERTAKE ANY IMPORTANT OPERATIONS DURING THE QUARTER. CURRENT SEIZURE STATISTICS ARE UNAVAILABLE. THE LATEST DATA AVAILABLE IS FOR THE BIENNIAL 1971-2, DURING WHICH ALL ELEMENTS OF THE FEDERAL POLICE MAKE 3,245 DRUG RELATED ARRESTS AND SEIZED 2,047 KILOS OF ALKOLOIDS AND 23,778 DOSAGES OF STIMULANTS. DURING THE PERIOD MARCH 1, 1970-MARCH 1, 1974 THE GENDARMERIA NATIONAL (BORDER PATROL) MADE 846 SEPARATE SEIZURES OF

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COCA LEAF WHICH TOTALLED 55,554 KILOGRAMS. LEGISLATION IS PENDING TO REVAMP THE NARCOTICS LAWS TO PROVIDE FOR STIFFER SENTENCES AND GIVE THE FEDERAL NARCOTICS POLICE NATIONWIDE POWERS. (UNDER CURRENT LEGISLATION BASICALLY THEY ARE LIMITED TO BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE.) DESPITE THE 1972 TREATY, EXTRADITION REMAINS A PROBLEM DUE TO BOTH THE LANGUAGE OF THE TREATY AND TO DIFFERENCES IN THE JUDICIAL PROCESSES IN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE FEDERAL NARCOTICS POLICE ARE INDIVIDUALLY EFFICIENT

BUT THE UNIT LACKS OPERATING FUNDS AND DECENT OFFICE SPACE FOR THE TYPE OPERATIONS WHICH THE GOA SHOULD BE UNDERTAKING. THE RECENTLY SIGNED PROAG WILL PROVIDE THEM WITH 6 AUTO-MOBILES, SOME ADDITIONAL LABORATORY EQUIPMENT AND SOME CAMERAS FOR SURVEILLANCE AND IDENTIFICATION. ALL ITEMS ARE BADLY NEEDED. UNDER ANOTHER PROAG, THE USG WILL PROVIDE THE GENDARMERIA WITH 2 SPOTTER AIRCRAFT, 20 VEHICLES AND RADIO EQUIPMENT. FINANCIAL DATA ON THESE PROAGS IS SUBMITTED IN UNCLASSIFIED FORM IN REFERENCE B. THE GENDARMERIA WILL PUT FOUR STRIKE FORCES IN THE FAR NORTHEAST TO BE TARGETTED AGAINST THE SMUGGLING OF COCOA LEAF AND COCAINE. THE GENDARMERIA HAVE A FIRST RATE REPUTATION AND ITS CURRENT CHIEF IS PERSONALLY MOST INTEREST IN THE PROJECT. THE OUTLOOK IS MOST FAVORABLE.

6. TREATMENT/REHABILITATION/EDUCATION. THE FINAL REFURBISHING TOUCHES HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO THE 6 BUILDING CENARESCO COMPLEX. THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY STAFF IS PROVIDING TREATMENT TO APPROXIMATELY 200 DRUG ABUSERS ON AN OUTPATIENT BASIS. RESIDENCIAL TREATMENT FOR 120 PATIENTS IS SCHEDULED TO START SHORTLY.

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INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-07 SCI-06

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R 111145Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7212

INFO DEA WASHDC

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 5054

7. TRAINING. THERE WAS NO IN-COUNTRY TRAINING DURING THE PERIOD. FOUR MEMBERS OF THE GENDARMERIA RECEIVED US TRAINING BY CUSTOMS, WHILE AN ADDITIONAL FOUR GENDARMERIA AND TWO FEDERAL POLICE OFFICERS ATTENDED A DEA TRAINING COURSE. TWO CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE FEDERAL POLICE ATTENDED A DEA

FORENSIC CHEMIST SEMINAR.

8. ARGENTINA IS A MEMBER OF BOTH THE INCB AND THE CND. ALTHOUGH IT DID SEND ITS REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MOST RECENT INCB MEETING, AT THE LAST MINUTE THE GOA CANCELLED ITS DELEGATION FROM BUENOS AIRES TO THE CND MEETING AND WAS REPRESENTED ONLY BY ITS MISSION IN GENEVA.

9. THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT JUAN PERON WILL HAVE A PROFOUND AFFECT ON BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE POLITICAL CLIMATE HERE, ALTHOUGH AT THIS POINT IN TIME NO ONE IS PREDICTING WITH CERTAINTY IN WHICH DIRECTION. AS NOTED ABOVE, THE ONE THING THAT IS CERTAIN IS THAT FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, AND PERHAPS FOR CONSIDERABLY LONGER, THE GOA POLICYMAKERS--WHOMEVER THEY ARE--WILL NOT FOCUS ON NARCOTICS. WITH THE SIGNING OF THE MAY 28 RESOLUTION WE CAN CONTINUE TO REACH PROJECT TYPE AGREE-MENT, AS APPROPRIATE WITH THE INDIVIDUALS AGENCIES CONCERNED. HOWEVER, WASHINGTON ELEMENTS NOT DEALING WITH ARGENTINA SHOULD BE AWARE THAT AT PRESENT A NUMBER OF POTENTIALLY VERY SERIOUS  
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POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ARE LIABLE TO ARISE WITH THE GOA. THESE, AT THE LEAST, WILL LEAD TO A CERTAIN COOLING OF OFFICIAL RELATIONS AND AT THE MOST COULD PRODUCE A SITUATION IN WHICH ALL USG-GOA CONTACTS ARE CORRECT BUT EXTREMELY FORMAL. ALTHOUGH EVEN DURING THE WORST ANTI-AMERICAN EXCESSES OF THE CAMPORA PRESIDENCY (MAY-OCT 1973) ARGENTINE FEDERAL POLICE COOPERATION WITH THE DEA WAS EXCELLENT, IT IS POSSIBLE, ALTHOUGH BY NO MEANS PROBABLE, THAT SUCH COOPERATION--UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE TOP--MAY DECLINE OR EVEN CEASE, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY.  
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